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NOTE ON COMET *b* 1917 (SCHAUMASSE).

(FROM A LETTER BY F. E. SEAGRAVE.)

The following elements are based upon Schaumasse's observation at the time of discovery, and upon observations by Barnard on May 6 and May 17, 1917.

T = 1917 May 18, 6061 Gr. M. T.

ω = $119^{\circ} 9' 20''$

Ω = $9^{\circ} 1' 5''$ } 1917.0

i = $158^{\circ} 34' 1''$ }

$\log q$ = 9.88201

The orbit of this comet is very interesting from the fact that it nearly intersects the Earth's orbit in heliocentric longitude $190^{\circ} 34'$, the position the Earth occupies on March 31 of each year. Thus we have:

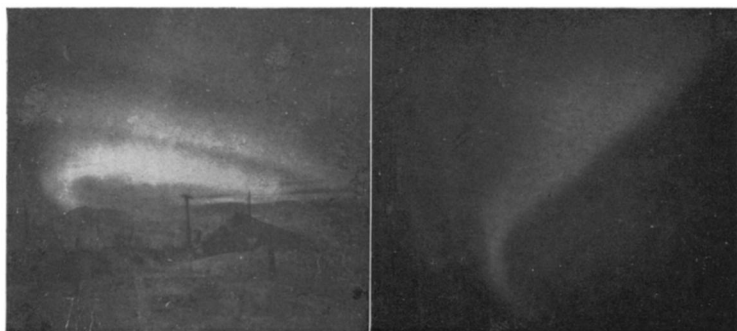
Heliocentric position of Comet,		Heliocentric position of Earth,	
1917, June 22.00		1917, March 31, 0 ^h Gr. M. T.	
λ	= $190^{\circ} 34' 10''$	L	= $190^{\circ} 34' 3''$
β	= +0 36 32	β	= 0 0 0
$\log r$	= 0.00337	$\log R$	= 9.99975

Meteor observers should keep a sharp lookout for stragglers from March 28 to April 2, 1918, as many meteors may follow the track of the comet.

Boston, June 22, 1917.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AURORA.

Mr. Fred N. Sickler, U. S. Government teacher at Shungnak, on the Kobuk River north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska, has taken a valuable series of photographs of the aurorae seen at this far northern station. The photographs were taken with a small commercial "lantern lens" loaned him for the purpose by the Lick Observatory, and some of the aurorae depicted are of unusual novelty and beauty. Two of these auroral photographs are reproduced on the opposite page. The negative of the wonderful aurora at the left unfortunately has many defects, which it has been impossible to remove entirely. Mr. Sickler is to be congratulated on the success he has had in photographing these difficult subjects.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE AURORA
FRED N. SICKLER SHUNGNAK, ALASKA